

6/20/84

CK 001

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Qs and As for SFRC Hearings on Torture Assistant Secretary Abrams

ARGENTINA

Testimony on Torture

June 26, 1984

Q. What is the situation in Argentina with respect to torture?

A. Amnesty International's report, "Torture in the Eighties," was completed in June 1983. As the committee is aware, elections were held in Argentina in October of that year and Raul Alfonsin, a champion of human rights, was inaugurated president on December 10. President Alfonsin has made respect for human rights a principal goal of his administration. A democratic government, such as the one that now exists in Argentina, is the best guarantee that human-rights violations such as torture do not occur.

Q. Are there not still political prisoners in Argentina?

A. There are 94 persons under confinement whom some human-rights activists have classified as "political prisoners." These prisoners were convicted of "subversive crimes" by either military or civilian courts during the years of military rule. The current Argentine government argues that it cannot summarily overturn these verdicts and suggests that these prisoners request a judicial review of their cases. In addition, there are bills under consideration to shorten the sentences of the individuals in question.

Lot: 92D165

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ARGENTINA PROJECT

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

 Declassify: ( ) In Part. ( ) In Full  
 ( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
 Date Declassify on Reason